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REMARKS

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 85-96, 98-99, 102-106, 108-109, 112-117 and 119-123 have been canceled and Claims 124-139 have been added. Claims 82 and 118 have been amended to further and more particularly define that which Applicants regard as their invention.

Support for these new claims and amendments to the claims is found throughout the specification. For example, page 23, lines 20-21; and page 24, lines 17-19, describe amino acid variants of 95% homology to SEQ ID NO: 25, and, therefore, provide support for new Claims 124-127, 129 and 133. Page 26, line 22 through page 27, line 8 describe hybridization and wash conditions, and, therefore, provide support for new Claims 128 and 130. Page 65, lines 2-17; and page 69, lines 1-14, describe CD2 and BODIPY, and, therefore, provide support for new Claims 131 and 132. FIG. 26 provides support for SEQ ID NOS: 24 and 25; FIGS. 44A-C, and page 22, lines 4-10; page 25, lines 19-21; page 27, lines 9-11; and page 27, line 18 through page 28, line 14 provide support for SEQ ID NO: 46, and, therefore, provide support for new claims 128, 130, 134 and 136 as well as amendments to Claims 82 and 118. No new matter has been added. Entry of the amendments to the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge and agree with the Examiner that Claims 97, 100, 101, 107, 110 and 111, as written, are in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 82-96, 104, 114 and 117 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

The Examiner has rejected Claims 82-96, 104, 114 and 117 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for not reasonably providing enablement for a method of identifying the ligands of all FATP transporters.

Applicants have canceled Claims 85-96, 104, 114 and 117.

Claim 82 has been amended to include reference to SEQ ID NO:25. Applicants note that Claims 83 and 84 depend on amended Claim 82.

Applicants further note that New Claims 124-139 are directed to specific SEQ ID NOS and do not refer generally to FATPs, and thus are also enabled by the Specification.

It is believed Applicants' cancellations and amendments obviate the Examiner's rejections and objections.

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The Examiner has objected to Claim 118 as being dependent on a rejected Claim. Applicants have amended Claim 118 such that it is now in independent form, as suggested by the Examiner.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 82-96, 104, 114 and 117 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (978) 341-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

Claim Amendments Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

82. (Amended) A method for identifying an agent which is an inhibitor of FATP1, comprising the steps of:
- (a) introducing into cells one or more vectors comprising a gene encoding a cell surface protein and a nucleic acid encoding FATP1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:25;
 - (b) contacting the host cells with anti-cell surface protein antibody and labeled fatty acid substrate of FATP1;
 - (c) contacting a first aliquot of the host cells with an agent being tested as an inhibitor of FATP1, while leaving a second aliquot of the host cells uncontacted with the agent;
 - (d) identifying, in the first and second aliquots, the host cells expressing the cell surface protein by detecting the anti-cell surface protein antibody bound to the host cells; and
 - (e) measuring, in the first and second aliquots, uptake of the fatty acid substrate of the host cells identified as expressing the cell surface protein;
- wherein less uptake of the fatty acid substrate in the first aliquot compared to the second aliquot is indicative that the agent is an inhibitor of FATP1.

118. (Amended) A method for identifying an agent which is an inhibitor of fatty acid uptake by a FATP comprising [The method of Claim 117, wherein the FATP comprises] the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:25, comprising the steps of:
- a) maintaining test cells expressing said FATP in the presence of a complex of a fatty acid and an agent to be tested as an inhibitor of fatty acid uptake;
 - b) measuring uptake of the complex in the test cells; and
 - c) comparing uptake of the complex in the test cells with uptake of the complex in suitable control cells;
- wherein lower uptake of the complex in the test cells compared to uptake of the complex in the control cells is indicative that the agent is an inhibitor of fatty acid uptake by said protein.